



**Forecasting and Flood Response Coordination
Regulatory and Operational Services,
Manitoba Water Stewardship**

**Flood Report for Manitoba
May 11, 2009**

Weather Conditions:

- Showers Tuesday evening to Wednesday afternoon with a possible thundershower late Tuesday. Rainfall amounts of 10-25 mm over southeastern Manitoba including the City of Winnipeg and in the Riding Mountain area-Dauphin area.
- Winds south 15-30 becoming northwest 30 on Wednesday.

City of Winnipeg:

- The Red River level at James Avenue in Winnipeg this morning was 17.24 feet, a rise of 0.04 feet since yesterday morning. The minor rise was due to lowering of the control gates at St. Norbert which offset declining flows on the Assiniboine River. Fluctuations of up to 0.1 feet from the general trend in City river levels may occur during the next few weeks due to operation of flood control works.
- The river level in Winnipeg will continue to gradually decline for the next few weeks. It is unlikely that the rain predicted for the next few days will cause an increase in levels since declining flows on the Assiniboine River will more than offset the effect of rain and lowering of the gates at St. Norbert.
- The river level in downtown Winnipeg will decline below 17 feet by tomorrow and will be in the range of 16.4 to 16.9 feet for the most of this week. As of this morning the level at James Avenue has declined 5.25 feet from the April 16 crest. The computed unregulated level for this morning (without flood control works) is 24.8 feet.
- With river levels just below 17 feet, there is a significant risk of basement flooding due to sewer back-up in vulnerable areas of the City of Winnipeg, arising from a possible thundershower tomorrow evening. The occurrence and extent of basement flooding potential would depend upon the intensity of the rainfall event. As noted below, the Portage Diversion has been operated to reduce flows on the Assiniboine River as much as possible and thereby lower river levels in the City, in order to reduce the potential extent of damages.

Emerson to St. Adolphe:

- The river level from Morris to St. Adolphe declined by more than three-quarters of a foot since yesterday morning, while levels from Emerson to St. Jean fell by

less than half a foot. Significant declines will continue although they may not be quite as fast for the next few days.

- The total decline in river levels since the crest ranged from five feet at Emerson and St. Adolphe to six feet at Morris.
- The level at Morris is still expected to decline to the PTH 75 elevation by late tomorrow or Wednesday. Opening of the highway will occur following a road condition inspection.

Floodway Inlet:

- The floodway gates will continue to be operated as required to maintain levels somewhat below unregulated levels upstream at the floodway inlet. A gradual lowering of the control gates will continue.
- The water level upstream of the Floodway Inlet this morning was 760.73 feet, a decline of 0.9 feet since yesterday morning. The large decline was in part due to lowering of the control gates. The flow into the Red River Floodway this morning was 22,070 cubic feet per second (cfs) of a total 70,450 cfs upstream of the Floodway Inlet.
- The level at the Floodway Inlet is expected to decline to 760 feet by late tomorrow or early Wednesday. This is the elevation at which St. Mary's Road (PR 200) is no longer flooded.

Lockport to Breezy Point:

- Levels from Lockport to Breezy Point will continue to decline 0.2 to 0.4 feet per day although significant fluctuation will occur depending on changes in wind speed and direction due to backwater from Lake Winnipeg.

Assiniboine River:

- Flow into Portage Reservoir decreased from 9230 cfs yesterday morning to 8900 cfs this morning. The inflow will continue to decline for the next few weeks unless heavy rain develops. The flow in the Portage Diversion this morning was 8415 cfs while the flow in the river downstream was 485 cfs.
- River flows toward Winnipeg were decreased to 500 cfs on May 9 in order to lower river levels in Winnipeg for the anticipated rainfall tomorrow night to Wednesday. Assiniboine River flows had begun to decrease at Winnipeg this morning. Assiniboine River flows toward Winnipeg (at Portage la Prairie) will likely be increased again later today since the effect will not reach Winnipeg for two days by which time the rainstorm will have passed the City of Winnipeg.
- The Shellmouth Reservoir water level rose 0.12 feet since yesterday morning and stood at 1403.9 feet this morning. The outflow will be increased from 100 cfs to 800 cfs early this afternoon in order to minimize further rises on the Reservoir. The downstream bankfull capacity is 1600 cfs. The reservoir level is unlikely to rise past 1404.3 feet based on this increase in the outflow. The spillway level is 1408.5 feet.

Souris River:

- Levels of the Souris River continue to decline slowly from the crests observed in late April to early May. The level at Melita has declined by one foot from the crest whereas at Souris and Wawanesa the level has decline less than half a foot.
- Levels on the Souris River will begin to decline more rapidly next week unless significant rainfall develops.
- Significant overbank flooding continues from the U.S. boundary to just south of Melita. By late May flooding should be limited to a small area of haylands based on favourable weather from now on.
- There are still some overbank flows from just north of Melita to near the town of Souris. Flooding in this portion should end by next weekend unless heavy precipitation develops.
- The duration of flooding will be significantly shorter than in 1999 when flooding extended well into June due to heavy rainfall.

Pembina River:

- Flooding of the Pembina Valley continues from Rock Lake to near Windygates although levels are declining about 0.1 feet per day. A very gradual decline in levels will continue unless significant rainfall develops. Flooding between Rock Lake and Swan Lake is expected to continue for another three weeks while flooding of most valley lands in the La Riviere area should end this week.
- Rock Lake is presently at 1335 feet and will continue to decline slowly based on favourable weather. While the level remains high, there is no serious shoreline flooding at this time. The normal summer level is near 1330 feet.
- The level of Pelican Lake is estimated at 1351.95 feet this morning. The outlet control works continue to be operated to reduce the lake to its desirable level of 1351.7 feet. Unless rainfall is heavy the target level should be reached by the end of this week.
- The Pembina River at La Riviere has declined 5.2 feet from its April 18 crest and the level at Neche has declined 7.6 feet from its April 21 crest.

Lakes:

- Satellite images show that the ice on Lake Manitoba and on Lake Winnipeg south of the Narrows is beginning to break up. Much of the ice is now free to move with the winds. Ice may push up the shoreline in areas of shallow slopes such as at beaches if strong on-shore winds develop. Those who have experienced difficulties due to ice before are advised to take whatever precautions may be feasible, such as moving valuables to higher ground. The ice will likely be melted by the end of this week.
- Smaller lakes in southern Manitoba are now ice free.

- The level of Lake Winnipeg is presently near 714.9 feet. The lake is regulated within the range of 711 to 715 feet. Manitoba Hydro is releasing maximum outflows from the Lake to reduce additional rises, but the lake is still expected to rise to near 715 feet later in May.
- The level of Lake Manitoba is presently at 812.55 feet and is expected to crest near 812.65 feet later in May. The lake is regulated within the range of 810.5 to 812.5 feet. The outflow from the Lake is presently near 8500 cfs and cannot be significantly increased without causing flooding on Lake St. Martin, which is presently at 801.05 feet or about half a foot below flood stage. Lake St. Martin is expected to crest at 801.5 feet in early June. Fairford Dam has not been operated since February 6, 2009 in accordance with the present rules of operation.
- The level of Dauphin Lake is near 856.35 feet which is a good level for this time of year. No significant further rise is expected unless heavy rain develops.
- Most lakes in the Whiteshell are still well above their summer target levels but have begun to decline slowly. Logs had been removed from West Hawk, Brereton, White and Jessica lakes during the past few weeks to reduce levels. One log was added at Brereton Lake this morning due to a significant decline in the level.
- Further details are provided below and specific forecasted crest stages are shown on the daily flood sheets issued by Manitoba Water Stewardship. This information may be viewed at <http://www.gov.mb.ca/waterstewardship/floodinfo/floodsheet.html>